

POST WORLD WAR II AMERICA AND THE ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR

Post World War II Changes
in the United States and
the Origins of the Cold
War, 1945 - 1991

THE G.I. BILL OF RIGHTS

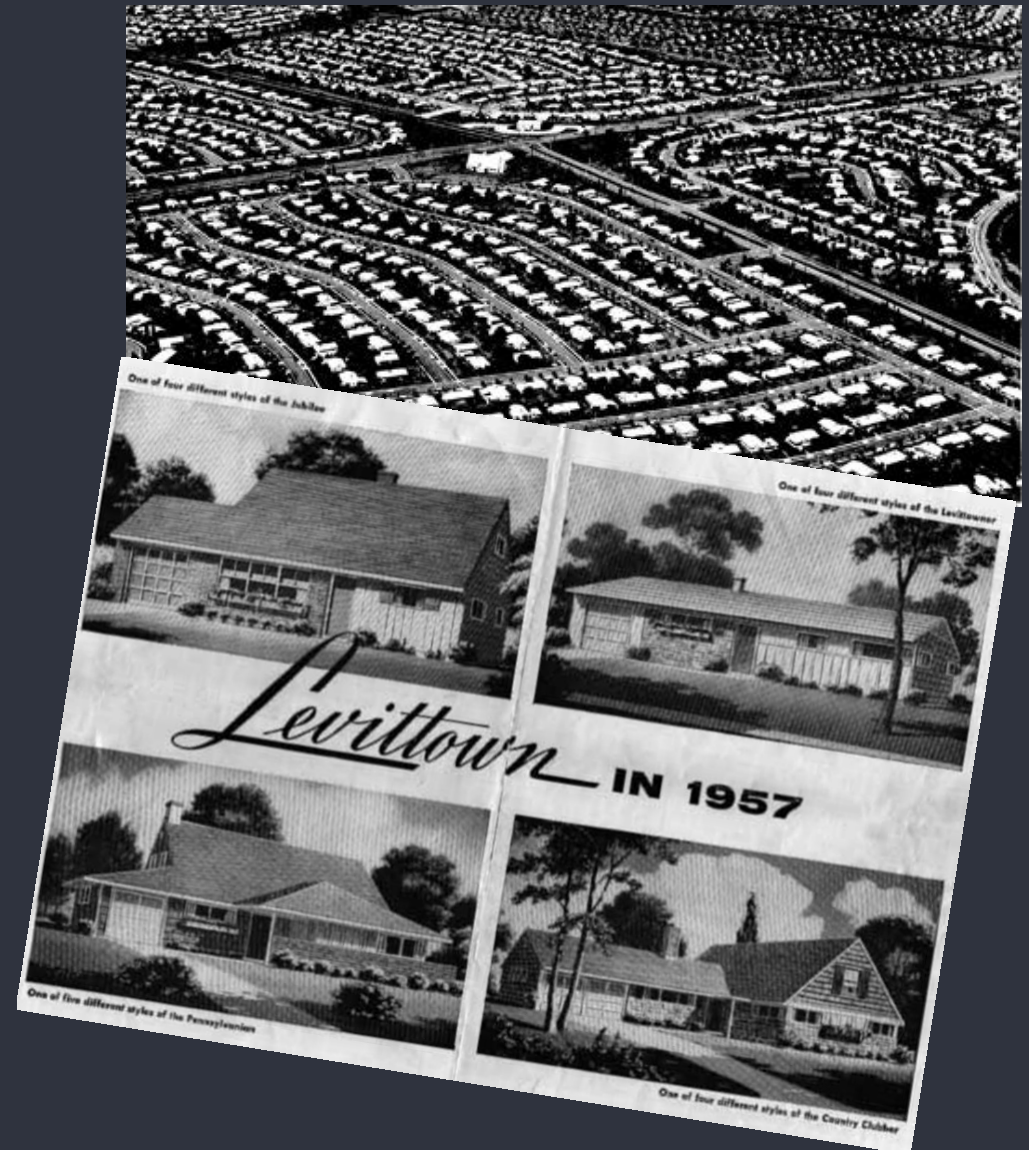
- When United States soldiers returned from World War II, the government sought to help them prosper in the nation they had fought to defend.
- The G.I. Bill of Rights gave soldiers money in order to establish businesses, purchase homes, or attend college.
- Many veterans took advantage of the G.I. Bill of Rights in order to create a new life for themselves and their families.

LEVITTOWNS

When American soldiers returned home, they wanted to have their own homes, find jobs, settle down, and begin families. Two children and white picket fence in the front yard became the standard nuclear family. The “Baby Boomer” generation was the product.

William Levitt combined the genius of Henry Ford’s assembly line methods with the construction industry – and Levittown – and host of cities just like it followed.

One less optimistic note on Levittowns: many of these neighborhoods were governed by associations that forbid the sale of the home to any non-whites.



LABOR TROUBLE: RECONVERTING THE ECONOMY TO AUTO, STEEL, MEATPACKING, AND ELECTRICAL SHOPS

The desire to live out the American dream was something which became a priority to all Americans in the aftermath of the war years. Soldiers returning home benefitted from the GI Bill and other government programs intended to improve their prospects. But work-a-day labors felt shut out of the largess. Workers in 1946 went out on strike when they found that wages were too low to achieve the new American dream.



The War Veterans' march in support of the strikers, August 26, 1946. (McMaster University, Labour Studies Collection)

Racial conflict persisted after the war, as well, in spite of the patriotic service of African-American soldiers, sailors, and pilots. Without deferring to Congress, however, President Harry S Truman ended segregation and discrimination in the United States military by executive order in 1948. The act was at least partially in response to the efforts of African-American union leader Asa Philip Randolph.



HARRY S TRUMAN: RE-ELECTED IN 1948

Truman was not exceedingly popular during his term in office, and many American predicted that he would be defeated in the Election of 1948 – after all, Democrats had controlled the White House since 1932. But not so, Chicago Tribune. Harry S Truman won most of the states in the West and managed to regain the Presidency in the Election of 1948. His second term would be defined by Cold War turmoil and conflict.



THE NATIONAL CIVIL DEFENSE PATTERN

THE INDIVIDUAL
Calm and well-trained

THE FAMILY
The base of organized self-protection

NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNITY
Puts civil defense into action immediately

NEARBY CITIES
Move in mutual aid as needed

STATE
Will furnish aid in the form of mobile support and supplies as needed

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
Furnishes aid and supplies if needed

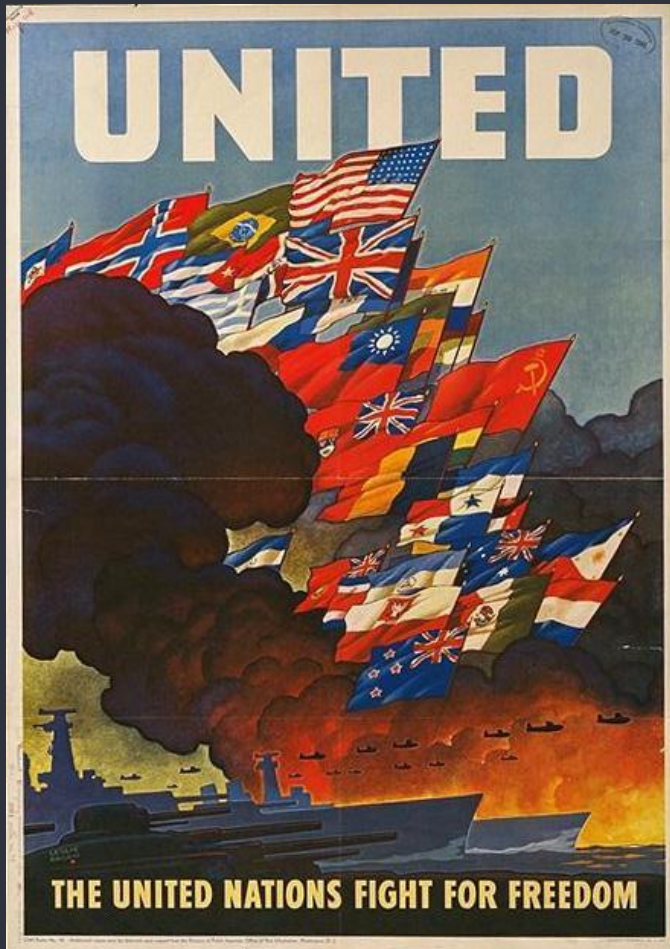
THE ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR – 1945 - 1949

Americans Respond to the Threat of Global Communism, Revolution, and Infiltration.

THE UN: THE UNITED NATIONS EST. 1945



THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL — PERMANENT MEMBERS



While there are hundreds of nations represented in the United Nations, there were five (5) nations given unique power over the assembly — the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council. These nations are:

The United States

The Soviet Union

England

France

China

Each of these nations can reject any action of the UN by using its Veto Power against legislation.

SOVIET UNION'S (USSR) INFLUENCE ON EASTERN EUROPE



THE SOVIET'S (USSR) PERSPECTIVE

The Soviet Union had lost over 10 Million men during the First World War, when Germany invaded their Western border. A bloody civil war ensued, during which the Bolsheviks took power. Then, in 1941, they were attacked by Germany for a second time – with even more devastating results. Twenty million men perished, defending the nation from Nazi Invasion. The only goal of the Soviet Union after World War II was to prevent another German attack – even if it meant they would have to prevent Germany from ever rebuilding. Democracy in Eastern Europe – the rights of the people of Eastern Europe, even – were secondary concerns for Stalin.



THE USSR'S SATELLITE NATIONS

Countries which were under the control of the Soviet Union – and ruled by so-called “Puppet Governments” included:

Poland
East Germany
Czechoslovakia
Hungary
Romania
Bulgaria
Albania
Yugoslavia*



*Marshall Tito of Yugoslavia was his own, uncooperative, man – but a communist nevertheless!

THE COLD WAR: THE SOVIET UNION (USSR) VS. USA



- Between the United States of America and the Soviet Union, roughly between 1945 and 1991.
- There was no direct military conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union, and no declaration of war.
- There was continuous posturing and threatening language used by both nations towards the other.
- The nuclear arms race created a terrifying threat of nuclear holocaust.
- Frequent military conflict in peripheral nations.

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S "IRON CURTAIN SPEECH."

Churchill claimed that the people of Eastern Europe were being held hostage by the Soviet Union – that an “Iron Curtain” had descended across the continent. Churchill’s major efforts were to compel the United States to assert leadership in Europe – and to recognize the Soviet threat, and respond to it forcefully.





“ An Iron Curtain has descended across the continent. Behind that line lie all of the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe....all these famous cities and populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere.”

WINSTON CHURCHILL,
FULTON, MO, 1946



The Iron Curtain Speech

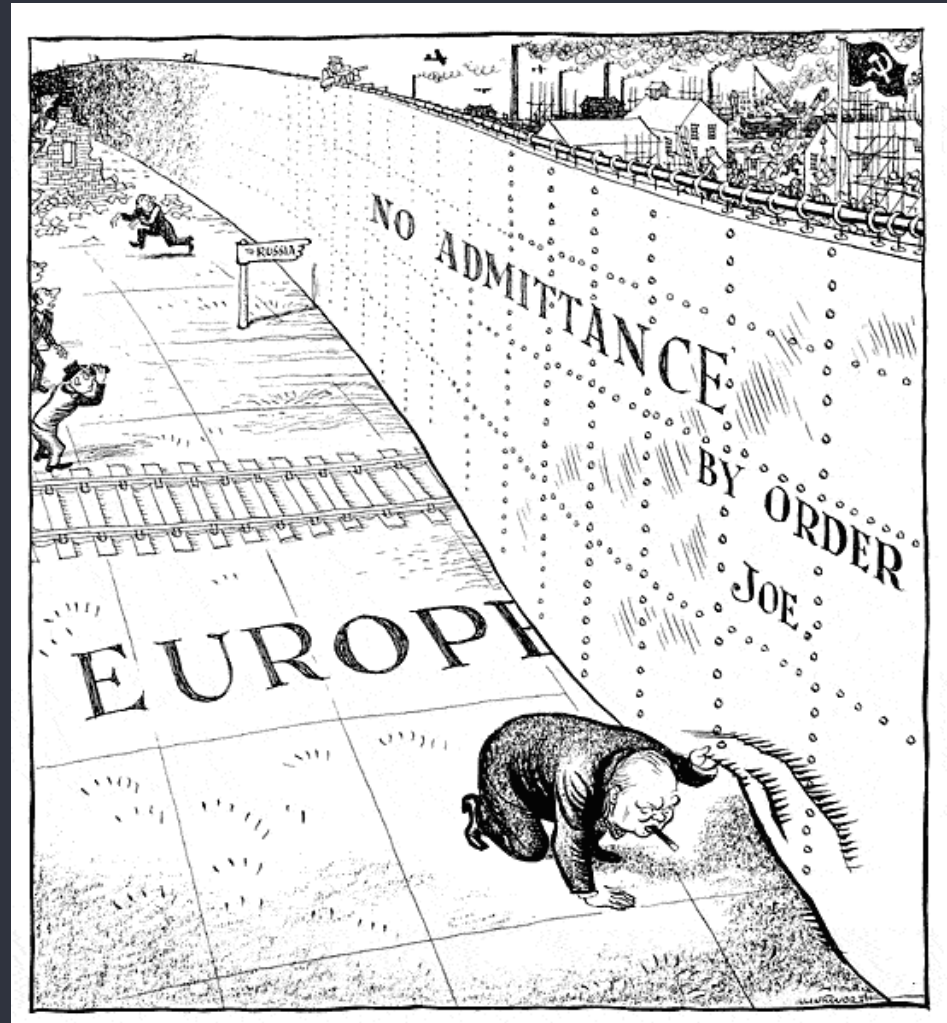
Churchill's speak is much remembered today for the metaphor he articulated in describing the Soviet Influence on Eastern Europe. Although the Berlin Wall would become an even more palpable symbol of the Soviet Union's oppression in the early 1960s, Churchill had created a sense of urgency regarding the Soviet threat through his pronouncement at Fulton, MO in 1946.

THE CHURCHILL SPEECH:
THE SINEWS OF PEACE:

[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
WATCH?V=JVAX5VUVJWQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVAX5VUVJWQ)

THE IRON CURTAIN

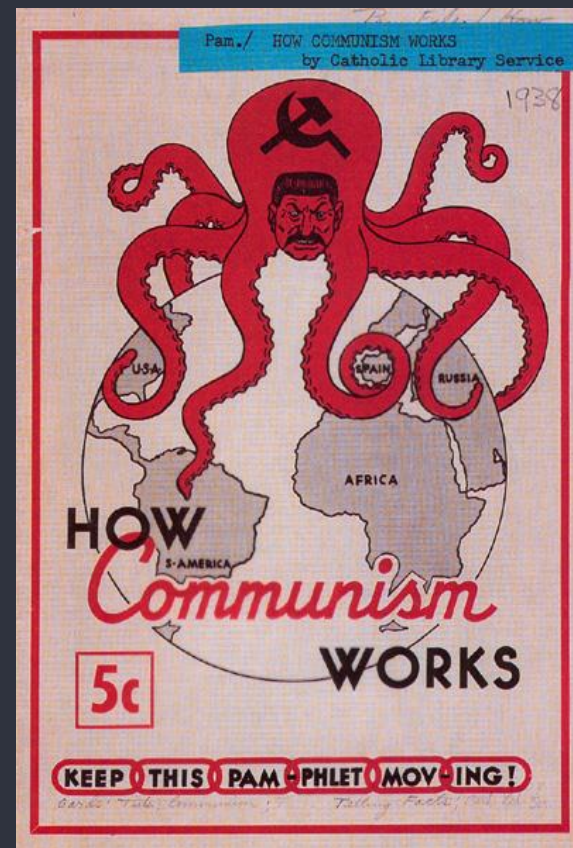
The term “iron curtain” was a way to refer to the barrier in culture and understanding which was emerging between Western European governments and Eastern European governments under the Soviet Union’s influence. Churchill’s expression was frequently used to express the significant differences between the democratic, capitalistic nations of the West which valued individual rights and liberty and the totalitarian regimes, communist in nature, which sacrificed individual rights and free expression for the benefit of the state in Eastern European countries.



HARRY TRUMAN'S AND THE UNITED STATES' POLICY OF CONTAINMENT

- The United States would not attempt to roll back communism in Eastern Europe, but we would forbid the Soviet Union from expanding its influence.
- The policy was largely a product of George F. Kennan's "Long Telegram" of 1946. He declared that the Soviet Union would only respond to blunt force — but that they would assuredly respond, because they did not have the wherewithal to fight.
- Our goal was to stop the spread of communism, not to overturn communist regimes where they stood.

THE POLICY OF CONTAINMENT - THE POLICY OF CONTAINMENT, NOT WITHOUT MERIT, PRESUMES THAT THE USSR HAD PLANS TO SPREAD ITS COMMUNIST SYSTEM GLOBALLY. THIS PRESUMPTION, HOWEVER, ALSO ASSUMED THAT NATIONS WHICH ADOPTED THE SYSTEM WOULD BE SOMEHOW BOUND TO THE USSR FOR BOTH MATERIALS AND PHILOSOPHIES. THAT PROVED NOT TO BE TRUE.



THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE: END COMMUNISM IN TURKEY AND GREECE WITH AND SUPPLIES FOR OUR ALLIES.

Harry Truman vowed to stop the spread of communism and promised to give money to any nation that committed itself to a future of democracy and capitalism. His first offerings were to two strong American allies in the world today which were threatened by Soviet aggression – Turkey and Greece.



Give 'Em Hell Harry S. Truman. Truman decided immediately that communism would not be spreading on his watch. His actions in Berlin, Turkey and Greece, and continental Europe all stopped the spread of communism.

THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE, 1947

As early as 1947, President Harry S. Truman announced that his government would be committed to providing economic and military aid to any nations which were threatened by the spread of communism. This policy became known as the Truman Doctrine. In particular, Truman asked Congress to provide aid for the nations of Greece and Turkey, both of which faced insurgent threats which were led by the USSR and its communist allies. The Truman Doctrine delivered over \$400 Million in economic and military aid to these two nations, hoping to preserve capitalism and democracy in the region. The plan worked!



THE MARSHALL PLAN

The Marshall Plan was devised by General George Marshall to help our allies in Europe to rebuild following World War II. The United States handed out over \$13 Billion to nations in Western and Southern Europe who pledged to maintain democratic governments and capitalist economic systems. In fact, Americans even offered to help the Soviet Union rebuild – if they would try out our governmental and economic system.

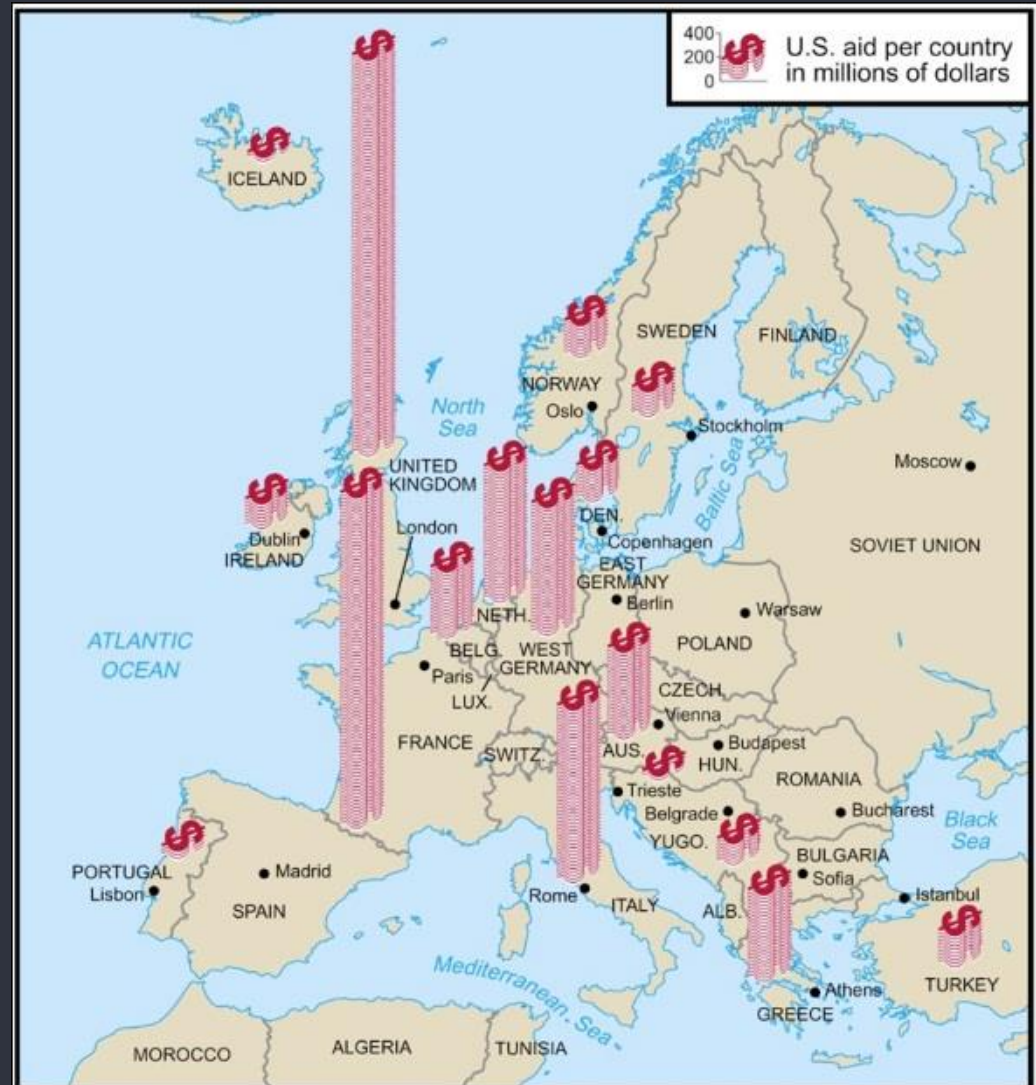
The Soviet Union (USSR) declined, and they forced their Eastern European allies to do the same.

Western Europe rebuilt and revitalized itself, while Eastern Europe was in an economic malaise for decades.



THE MARSHALL PLAN FOR EUROPE, 1948 - 1952

The Marshall Plan is named for General George Marshall – who became the Secretary of State under Harry S. Truman following World War II. The plan was simple. Help European nations rebuilt, so they will not suffer from the economic despair and political instability which had allowed dictators to rise up in Europe following World War I. Between 1948 and 1951, the United States loaned out over \$13 Billion to sixteen nations in Europe – the only requirement the US made of these nations was that they preserved capitalist economic systems and democratic political institutions.



MARSHALL PLAN AID TO EUROPE, 1948-1952

THE ECONOMICS OF THE MARSHALL PLAN – IS THIS WORTHWHILE?

Everyone in the United States realized that the money we spent in Europe in order to rebuilt the area was huge. Nevertheless, the United States considered the price tag to be worth it. By investing in European nations after the war, we were committing ourselves to creating a new Europe – devoted to democracy, individual rights, and capitalism – which would prevent future wars and preserve peace. We were also preventing the USSR from sending in foreign agitators to overthrow the stable governments of Western Europe and replace them with more communist, puppet governments devoted to worldwide communist revolt!



Dorman Smith in The Phoenix Gazette, NEA
"He's finally getting the hang of it."

NATO: THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

The nations in yellow are the founding nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, founded in 1949. The nations were devoted to defending one another from the threats of Soviet expansion and communism. Today, the group has grown to include other nations, some of them in Eastern Europe.

This defensive alliance was contrived for one major purpose – to allow the nations of Western Europe to feel a sense of security – safe in the knowledge that the Soviets (USSR) would not attack!



THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION – EST. 1949

NATO was established by the United States in 1949 in order to create a security agreement with our Western European allies. The goal of the organization was to prevent Soviet Aggression by establishing a defensive agreement with our closest allies. Members of NATO included:

The United States of America

Canada

England

France

Portugal

Norway

Belgium

The Netherlands

West Germany

Italy

Turkey

Greece

Luxembourg



THE WARSAW PACT — EST. 1955

In 1955, the Soviet Union responded to NATO by organizing a defensive alliance of its own — the Warsaw Pact. It consisted of all the puppet governments in Eastern Europe which had been installed and maintained by the Kremlin in the first place.

Unlike the United States organization, NATO, this confederation was not voluntary. The Soviet Union insisted that all of the nations of Eastern Europe join, and ruled the organization with an iron fist. This was no consensus organization, it was a hierarchy controlled by the Soviet Union.



THE WARSAW PACT NATIONS

The Soviet Union's Response to the establishment of NATO, in 1955, was the creation of the Warsaw Pact:

The Soviet Union

East Germany

Poland

Czechoslovakia

Hungary

Romania

Bulgaria

Albania

This defensive agreement was simply a formality – the Soviet Union already controlled the governments in all of these nations!



Divided Europe During the cold war, Europe was divided into opposing military alliances, the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact (Communist bloc).

JOSEPH STALIN'S BERLIN BLOCKADE

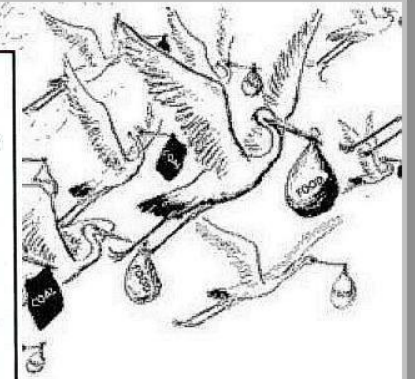
After World War II, Both Germany and its capital city, Berlin, had been divided into four zones of occupation: for England, France, the United States, and the USSR. Joseph Stalin wanted to control all of the land within the Soviet Union's territory in East Germany, even the divided city of Berlin. He blocked off all of the roads and canals leading into and out of Berlin in 1948. Fearing that the reunion of a German state with the power to destroy the USSR was eminent, he took action to sever ties completely with West Germany, and seize Berlin.



THE BERLIN AIRLIFT

The United States, thanks to Harry Truman's stubborn disposition, pledged to stay in Berlin. Following the policy of containment, Truman refused to allow even one city – even half of one city – to fall to communism. Over the course of 11 months, the United States and Great Britain sent over 275,000 supply planes to West Berlin filled with food, fuel, medicine, and other essentials to Berlin.

Truman, who had access to the atomic bomb at this point, began to realize the limits of that bomb's power...





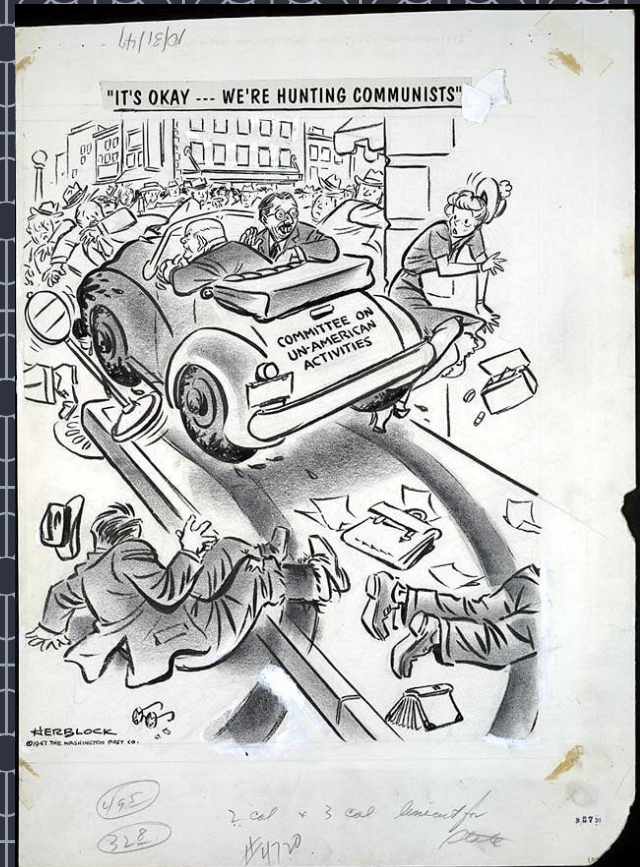
When Joseph Stalin attempted to control the entire city of Berlin by blocking off all of the roads, rails, canals, and waterways into and out of West Berlin, the US and Great Britain responded with the largest and most massive airlift ever organized. For eleven months, three supply planes an hour were flown into Berlin – bringing over 13,000 pounds of cargo and goods each day to the isolated city. By the end of the airlift, over 200,000 flights had landed in West Berlin with relief.

BERLIN AIRLIFT, 1948 - 1949

THE BERLIN WALL, 1961 - 1989



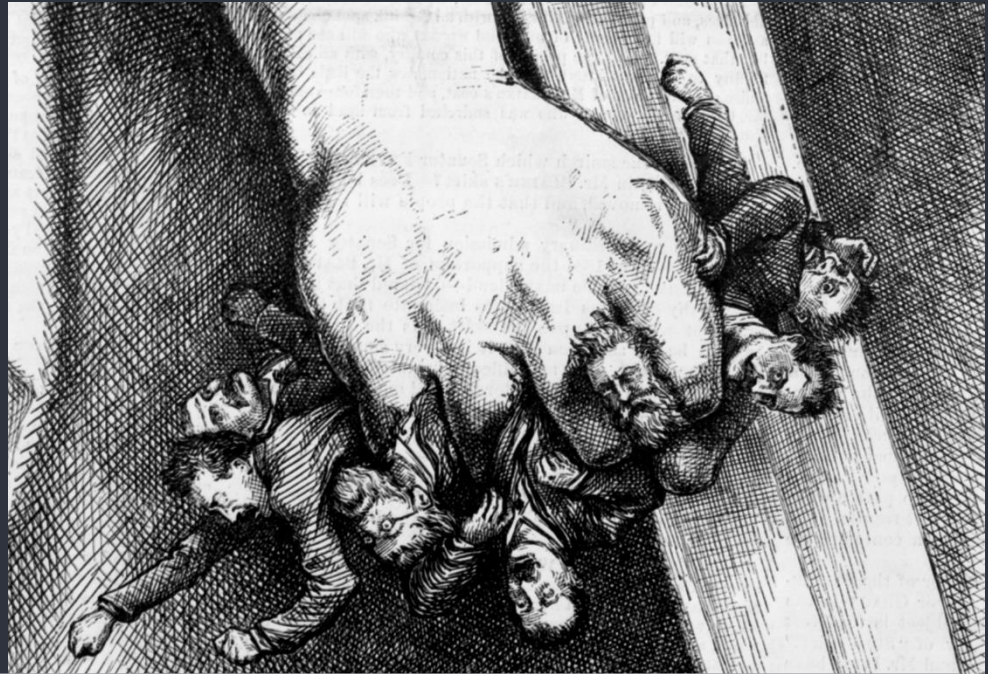
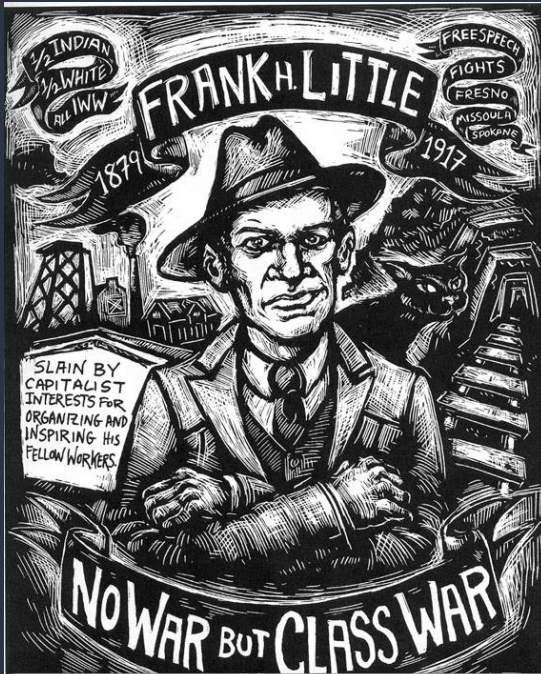
While it is natural to assume that the Berlin Wall was constructed by the Soviet Union (USSR) during the Berlin Blockade, it is not correct. In fact, this wall was built at the orders of Nikita Khrushchev after the Bay of Pigs invasion. Khrushchev wanted to punish American Allies for our attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro in 1961. The Berlin Wall divided Berlin until 1989.



THE RED SCARE AND MCCARTHYISM

The Fear of Communism and Radicals Paralyzes Americans During the 1950s – and Jeopardizes Our Nation's Liberties.

TRADITIONS OF RADICALISM IN UNIONS

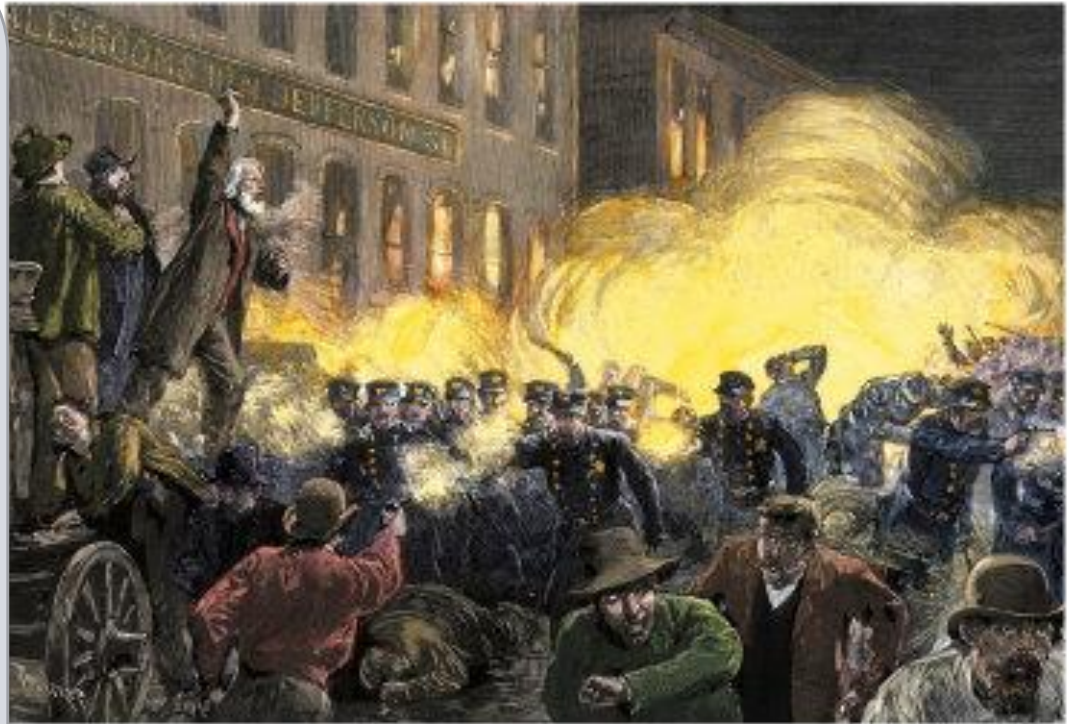


There was a long history of radicalism – communists, socialists, and anarchists, for example – within radical labor unions like the Industrial Workers of the World. In the 1920s, Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer had declared war against these groups deporting foreign radicals and arresting the Americans – their first and fourth amendment rights be damned. Most unions, or course, did not support radicals. In fact, more moderate Unions like the AFL officially denounced radicals.

VIOLENCE IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT

Recall that there was some violence associated with the reforms which unions made, including events like:

- The 1877 Railroad Strike
- Haymarket Square Riot
- The Homestead Strike
- The Pullman Strike



THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION OF 1917

Vladimir Lenin's rise to power in Russia – the nation which would be renamed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – shocked American sensibilities. When a small group of Bolshevik radicals – few than six thousand men and women - overthrew the Romanov dynasty, toppled a democratically elected Duma, and seized control of the largest nation on Earth by violent methods, many Americans were fearful of communism and radicalism. In the United States, a first “Red Scare” resulted following World War I.



THE PALMER RAIDS OF THE 1920S



A. Mitchell Palmer was the Attorney General of the United States under Woodrow Wilson, and steadfastly devoted to the notion that the United States should be rid of all communist, socialist, anarchist, and radical agitators. His raids upon the labor unions, political organizations, and individuals which opposed the government were constant and usually unconstitutional.

After an anarchist attempted to assassinate him with a homemade bomb, Palmer took this business personally.

THE FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - VIOLATED

" The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized. "

THE BERLIN BLOCKADE AND THE BERLIN AIRLIFT WERE THE FIRST OF MANY COLD WAR CONFRONTATIONS WHICH ALARMED AMERICANS

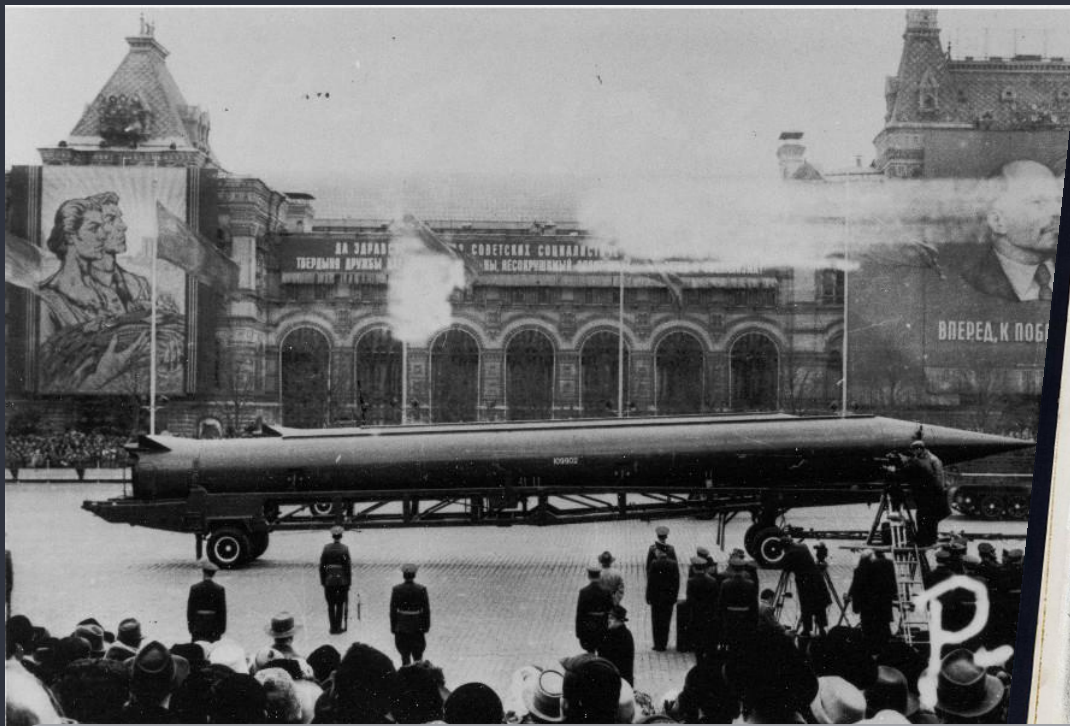
For most Americans, the Berlin Blockade was a clear indication that the Soviet Union (USSR) had an aggressive policy of taking over free nations.

American and British pilots delivered food, fuel, supplies, and medicine to the people of West Berlin for almost 11 months during the years 1948 and 1949. Eventually, Joseph Stalin took down the blockades which had isolated the city by blocking off all of its roads, rivers, and canals. He feared that an incident might spark a larger war. Harry S Truman considered this action the first difficult test for his policy of containment – and it was a triumph.



"YUP SONNY, AN THEM THAR LAST TWO I GOT FOR THE AIRLIFT BACK IN 1948-!!"

THE SOVIET UNION: A NUCLEAR SUPERPOWER, 1949



In 1949, Americans discovered – much to our surprise – that the Soviet Union had successfully tested their own atomic weapon – years before we thought they would figure out the horrible killing machine. Americans were frightened of atomic war.



ESPIONAGE: JULIUS AND ETHYL ROSENBERG

In 1949, the USSR was able to create its own version of the atomic bomb. Since Americans were convinced that it would take Soviet physicists much longer to master the technology, espionage was suspected. How could they have gotten this research done so quickly. Espionage was the answer. Julius and Ethyl Rosenberg were convicted of passing the secrets of the atomic weapon to the USSR and executed for doing so in 1953. Both were put to death by the United States government for their betrayal.



BERT THE TURTLE'S DUCK AND COVER FILMSTRIP:

[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=IKQXU-5JW60&FEATURE=FVSR](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKQXU-5JW60&feature=FVSR)

How paranoid were Americans during the 1950s? Enough that your grandparents are still struggling with it... The United States feeling of security was violated completely by the grim prospect of the Soviet Union's nuclear capabilities. Bunkers were dug in backyards to facilitate survival in the event of a nuclear war. Preparedness was emphasized – sirens and nuclear fallout shelter alarms were tests – and schoolchildren were trained to “Duck and Cover” at the first sign of nuclear attack: a flash.



CHINA FALLS TO COMMUNISM, 1949



CHINA FALLS TO COMMUNISM, 1949

So focused were Americans on the possibility of the Soviets spreading their communist beliefs into Europe, the government neglected to intervene in Asia. Mao Zedong and the communist forces which supported him took control of China in 1949, much to the surprise and disappointment of Americans. Overnight, the most populous nation on Earth had been turned into a communist nation. Fearful Americans, once again, began to worry about the possibility of revolution. Mao's dictatorship would result in widespread famines that killed millions and absolute police control over China.



NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION, 1950

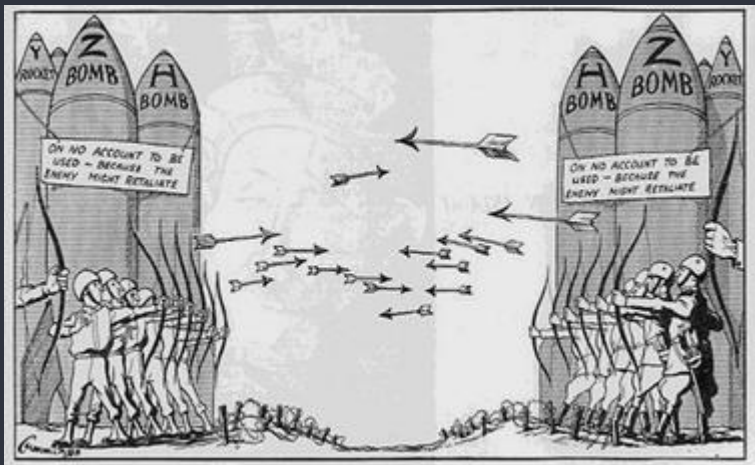
Americans were further concerned when Kim Il Sung, the leader of North Korea, launched an attack against South Korea to unify the entire Korean peninsula under communist rule. The United States would intervene militarily in order to stop the takeover of South Korea; however, the pattern was clear. The transparent aggression of communist nations in Berlin, China, and now Korea left the United States and our western European allies in a constant state of preparedness.



THE ARMS RACE

The term “Arms Race” refers to the buildup of larger and larger stockpiles of nuclear weapons by both the United States and the Soviet Union.

Both nations also managed to create more powerful weapons with greater destructive potential and longer range missiles to deliver these horrible weapons across long distances. ICBMs – Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles – were long range weapons which made all Americans fearful. The Soviets, of course, were equally concerned.

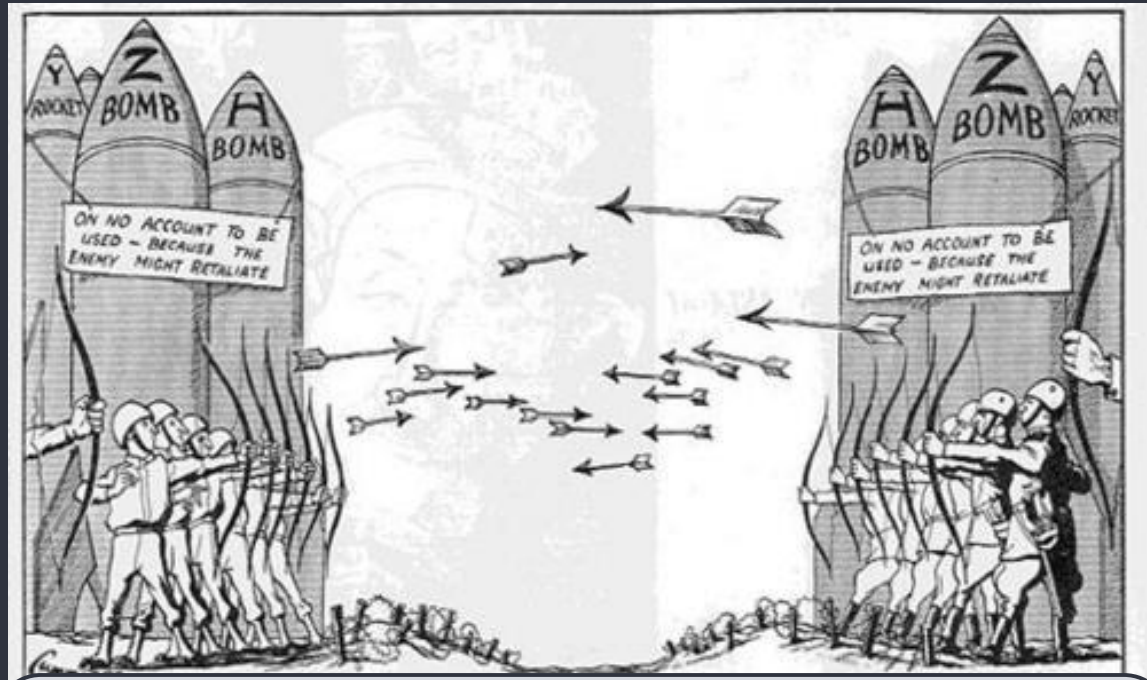


“MASSIVE RETALIATION,” BRINKSMANSHIP AND THE THEORY OF MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION

The dangerous foreign policy practiced by both the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

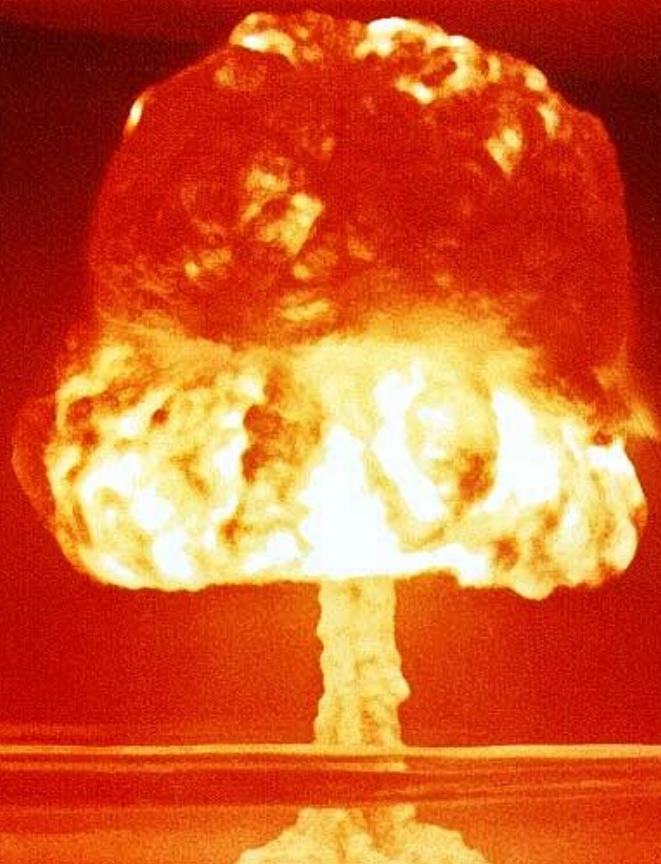
The United States pledged to go “to the brink” of war with the Soviet Union in order to stop the spread of communism.

The aggressive posturing and intimidation of the United States was generally matched barb for barb by the USSR.



Since both sides realized that the use of nuclear weapons would result in immediate retaliation, using the weapons was not practical. Yet, fearful rhetoric, threats and intimidation heightened anxiety and frightened citizens.

OPERATION IVY: THE H-BOMB



THE SPACE RACE BEGINS - 1957



The competition between the United States and the Soviet Union to control the exploration and colonization of space.

Although Americans and Russians took great pride in their accomplishments – orbiting the Earth, landing on the moon, etc.. – the primary purpose of investing large sums of money into the space race was to demonstrate the power of the rockets each nation had created – the same technology used to launch missiles: nuclear missiles to destroy the enemy.

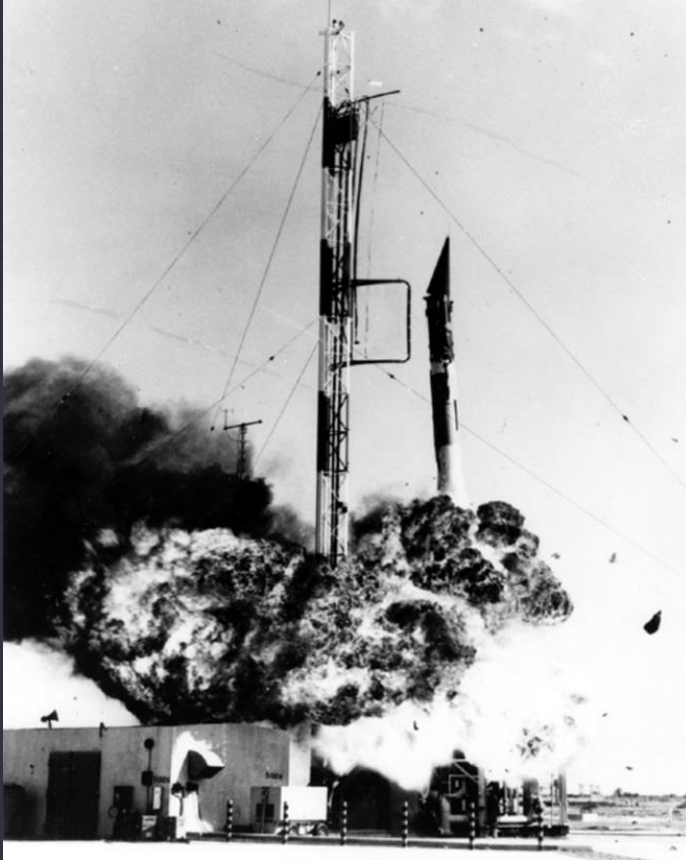
SPUTNIK: AMERICAN RESPONSES



The first man made satellite launched into space, by the Soviet Union, in 1957.

Americans were shocked that they had been beaten into space by the Soviets, and made a commitment to improving a) weapons technology and b) improving the American public school system by increasing the emphasis on mathematics and science.

STAYPUTNIK: THE VANGUARD TV-3

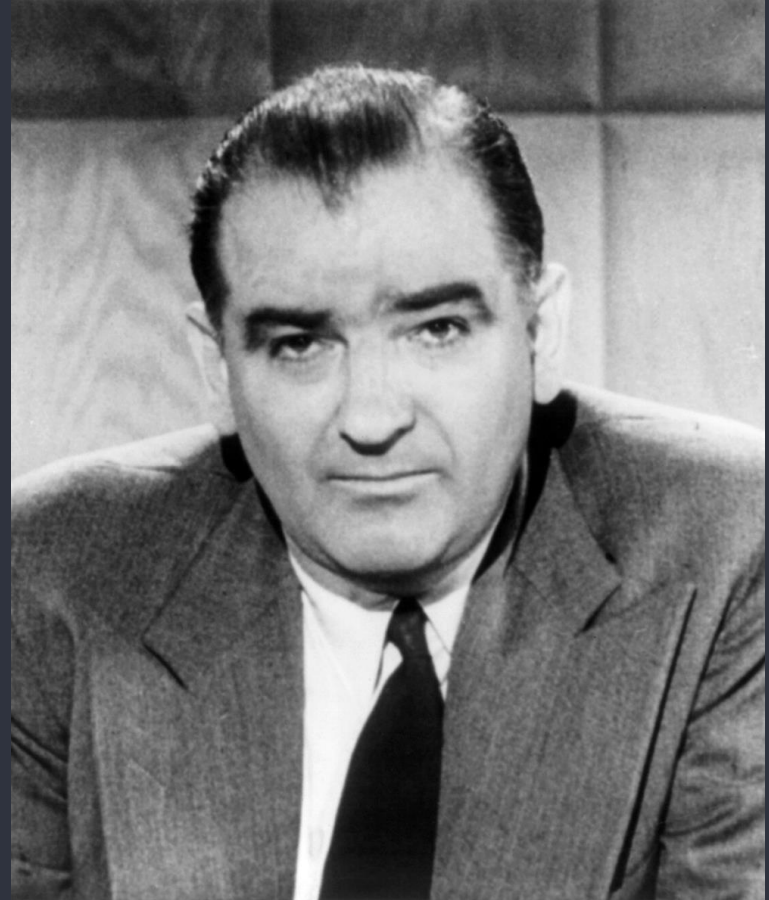


The Vanguard TV-3 blew up on the launch pad; however, it will suffice to say that Americans innovation embarrassed the Soviet Union over the long haul in the Space Race. After the Soviets were put the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin, Americans:

- Founded NASA – the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- Put Alan Shepard and Gus Grissom into space.
- John Glenn orbited the Earth and returned.
- Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon.
- The Space Shuttle Program.
- Explorers like the Hubble telescope and Voyager, which still send back images and information.

SENATOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY USING FEAR...

The senator from Wisconsin who took advantage of this paranoia and doubt for political reasons was Joseph McCarthy. Hurling undocumented and unproven accusations at Americans he considered unpatriotic or “communist sympathizers”, he managed to destroy the reputations of his opponents while building himself up as the defender of capitalism and democracy. He also attacked Americans First Amendment rights and ruined the reputations of many good people. After his attacks were exposed as baseless, he was censured, lost election to the Senate and drank himself to death.

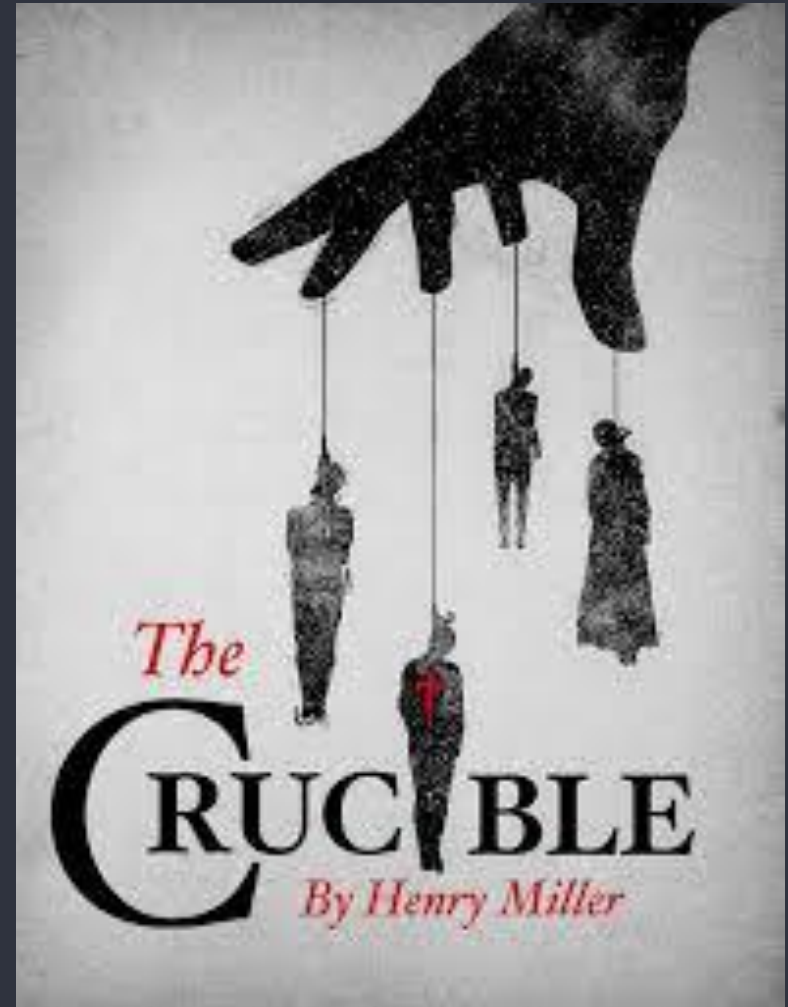


THE RED SCARE AND MCCARTHYISM

Due to the threat of communist revolution and the ever-present threat of nuclear war, Americans were genuinely fearful of our communist rivals.

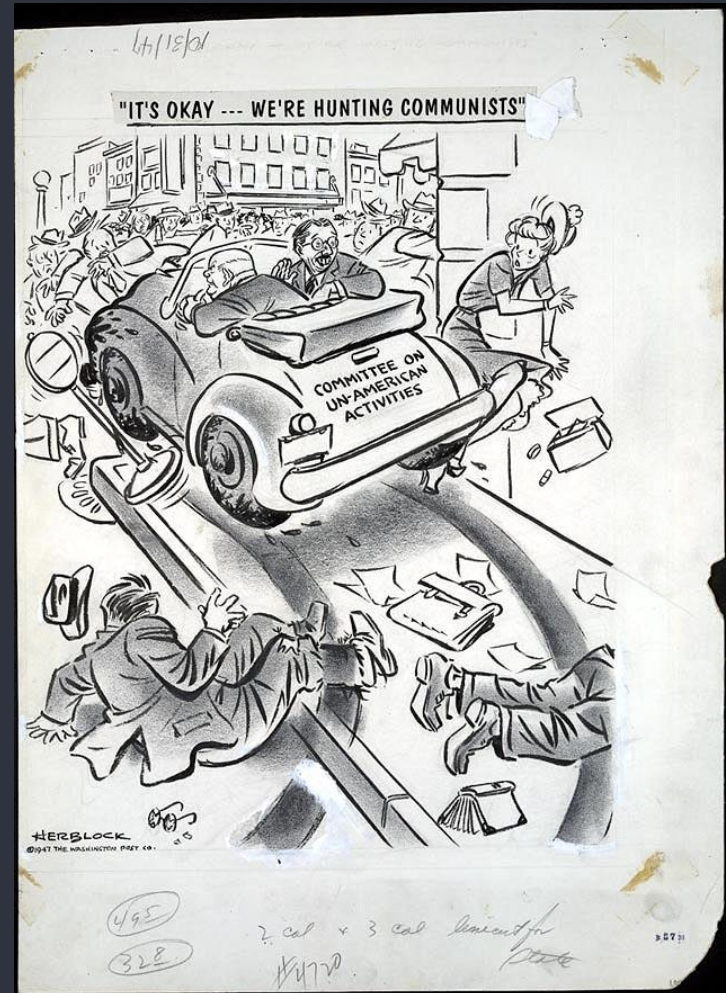
At times, the fear and paranoia generated by the Cold War resulted in overzealous pursuit of communists or other radicals who we feared would betray our nation. Because of the unfair accusations he leveled at political rivals without evidence, McCarthy is correctly compared to those who engaged in “witch-hunts” in the colonial period. Indeed, Arthur Miller’s brilliant play, “The Crucible” mocks McCarthy through allegory.

There were many acts of espionage, intrigue, and betrayal during the Cold War, and some of the fearfulness and paranoia was justified.



HUAC: THE HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE — HUNTING COMMUNISTS

The House Un-American Activities Committee was infamous for their unfair investigations and slanderous assaults on Americans who aired sympathetic views for America's rivals. Following Senator Joseph McCarthy's lead, this organization investigated American industries in order to find out if there were "communists in our midst." In one instance, Hollywood actors and directors were accused of communist sympathies. The leader of the Screen Actors Guild — one Ronald Reagan — assisted in the attempt to identify and blacklist actors and actresses with ties to communism. In many fields, blacklists were created to prevent the hiring of radicals.



MCCARTHYISM: FEAT OF COMMUNIST INFILTRATION RUNS AMUCK

The hysteria generated by the Red Scare often resulted in paranoia and unjustified persecution of people with minority views – or sympathies for communists. Under the first amendment and in the Bill of Rights, free speech and political liberties were guaranteed; however, during the 1950s, many of these principles were under assault. In this cartoon, the character is yelling, “*FIRE!*”, then extinguishing the Statue of Liberty’s torch.



MCCARTHYISM

After Joseph McCarthy had exhibited a pattern of making false accusations - questioning the patriotism and loyalty of upstanding citizens of our nation – his methods were condemned.

During an investigation into communism in the US Armed Forces, McCarthy finally went too far. On national TV, serviceman Joseph Welch retorted, “I have never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness....Have you no sense of decency?”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTwDUpbQHJg>

McCarthy was ultimately censured by the Senate, forced to resign, and subsequently died of cirrhosis of the liver a few years later.

Today, the term McCarthyism is used to describe reckless, slanderous claims made against innocent citizens.

THE RED SCARE SUBSIDES

There were, of course, many good reasons for fear during the Cold War. The threat of nuclear holocaust was ever present.

In 1962, John F. Kennedy was tested by Nikita Khrushchev during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the result was almost catastrophic. In the mid-1960s, the United States involvement in Vietnam escalated.

But by the end of the 1960s and start of the 1970s, *détente* – a gradual easing of tensions between the USA and the Soviet Union had begun.



THE KOREAN WAR, 1950 - 1953

The Policy of Containment
in Asia, Act One.

THE UNITED NATIONS, ESTABLISHED 1945

Founded in San Francisco, California in April of 1945.

Over 50 nations joined the international peacekeeping government at the end of World War II.

Known as the UN, the headquarters of the United Nations today is located in New York City, NY.

THE UNITED NATIONS, EST. 1945

The United Nations building, located to the right, has become the location of dozens of important international debates and conflicts over the course of the last sixty-five years. While the international governing body is considered a “peacekeeping organization” across the world, it has played a significant role in several wars — perhaps most importantly the Korean War of the 1950s.



THE RISE OF COMMUNIST POWER IN CHINA

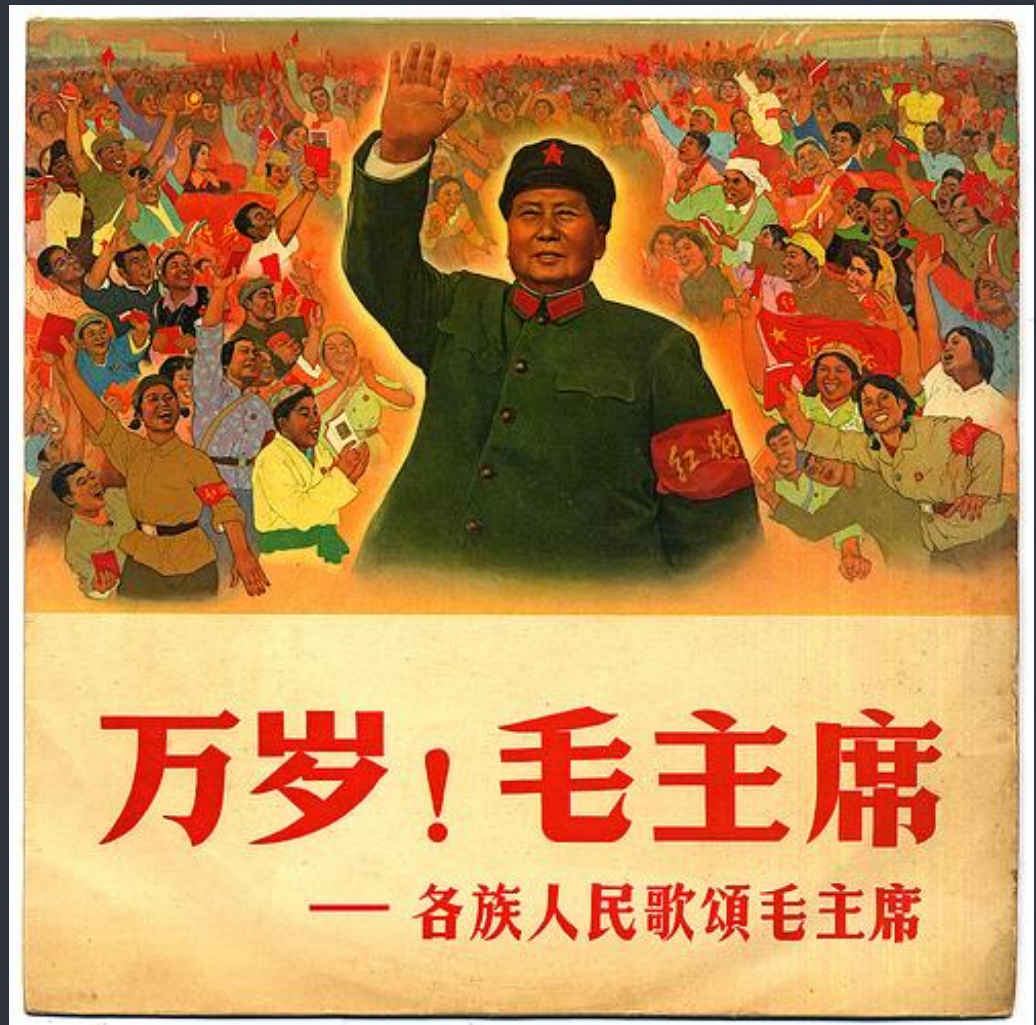
John Service, an American diplomat who had been raised in China and was familiar with the culture and political climate of the nation, warned Americans in the 1940s that the Nationalist regime led by Chiang Kai-Shek, whom Americans supported, was growing weak. Communist leader Mao Zedong's long efforts to oust the US supported leader were likely to succeed.

In the picture to the right, Service is shaking hands with Zhou Enlai, who would become the Foreign Minister of China under Mao once China turned communist. Chiang Kai Shek was forced to retreat to Taiwan.



MAO ZEDONG

The leader of communist forces in China was Mao Zedong. During a bloody and horrific civil war against Chiang Kai-Shek, Mao and his followers sacrificed both lives and material to oust the Nationalist Chinese government. Eventually, with the support of the Soviet Union, Mao succeeded. Many Americans assumed that Mao took orders from the Kremlin in Moscow — and that if China had controlling influence over other nations, that they were the nations of Southeastern Asia.



OUR GUY IN CHINA: CHIANG KAI-SHEK

The Nationalist forces under Chiang Kai-Shek, meanwhile, were forced to retreat to the tiny island of Taiwan, off the coast of mainland China. There, they have maintained an independent state since the Communist Revolution of 1949. Presently the government of China considers Taiwan a “renegade state.” Although the United States treats Taiwan as an independent nation, it is not spoken of as such in diplomatic terms so as not to antagonize China.



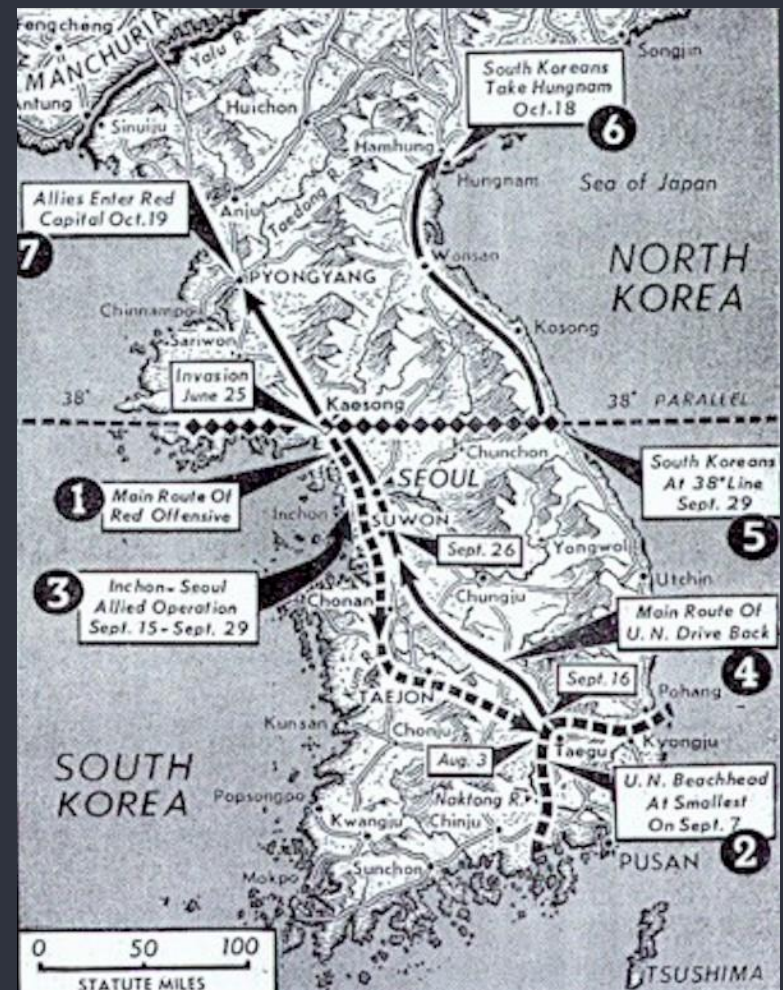
“THE FALL OF CHINA TO THE REDS”

When Chairman Mao established his communist government in mainland China, most Americans were caught off guard and frightened. At the time, most of the United States time, attention, and resources were focused on Europe – The Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, containment. But overnight, the most populous nation on Earth had been taken over by Communists – just as the largest nation on Earth physically, Russia, had been in 1917. The shock left Americans anxious and uncertain.



THE KOREAN WAR, 1950 - 1953

Korea had been a colony of Japan for close to half a century by the 1950s – interestingly, during Theodore Roosevelt's time in office, he had given tacit approval to Japan – allowing them to colonize the nation despite efforts on the part of Korea to have its independence. During World War II, of course TR's distant cousin Franklin Delano Roosevelt dramatically reversed that course. At the very end of World War II, the Soviet Union occupied North Korea – while an American supported government was installed in South Korea after Japan surrendered in Sept. of 1945.



NORTH KOREA ATTACKS — KIM IL SUNG, THE PATRIARCH OF A DYNASTY TEETERING ON MADNESS

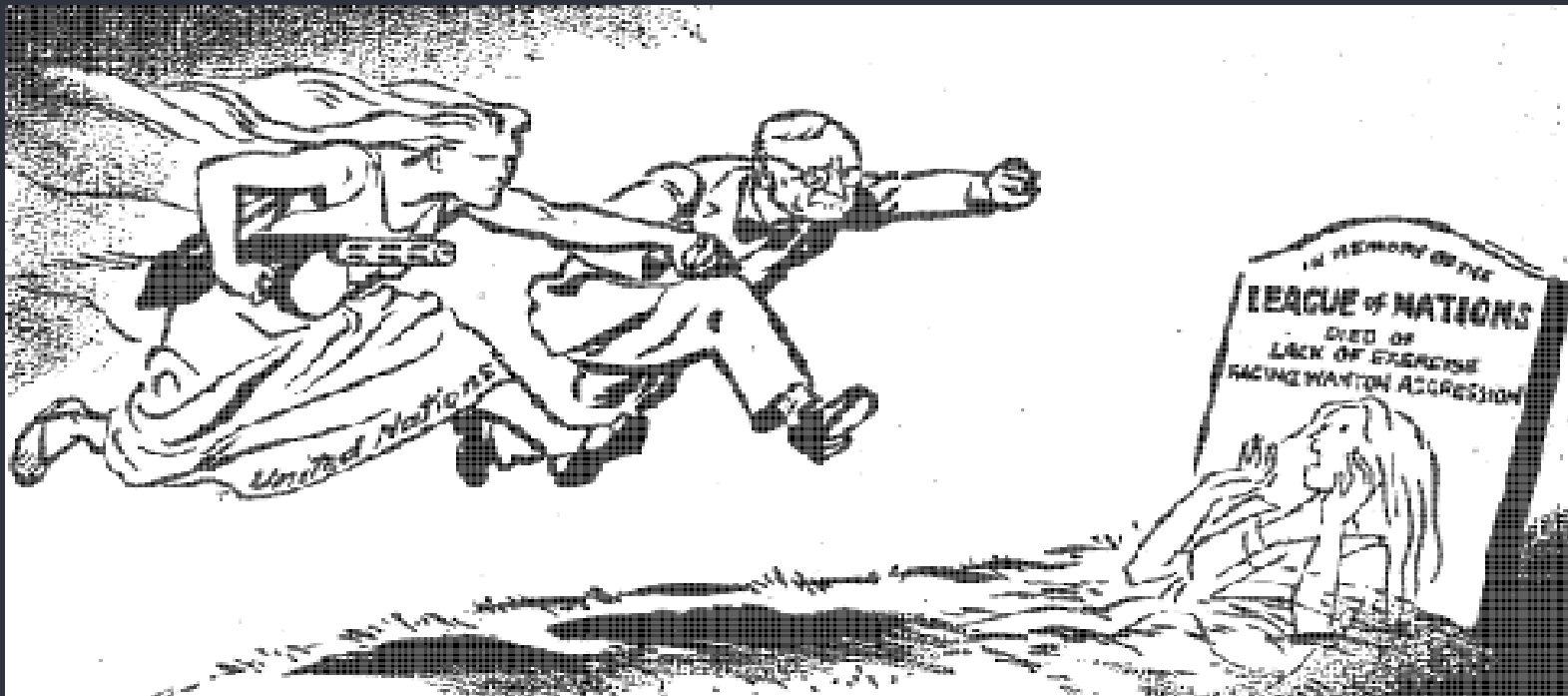
In June of 1950, the communist government of North Korea launched an attack against South Korea, in an effort to reunify the nation under communist leadership. South Koreans, of course, strongly opposed this invasion. Most Americans assumed that the leader of North Korea, Kim Il Sung, had attacked the South at the request of either Joseph Stalin or Mao Zedong. In fact, he had acted on his own, but both the Soviets and the Chinese would offer their sympathies and their support to North Korea.



Kim Il Sung's decision to invade South Korea led to the Korean War — and he has been succeeded by his son and grandson: Kim Jung Il and Kim Jung Un, who are have redefined madness in international relations.

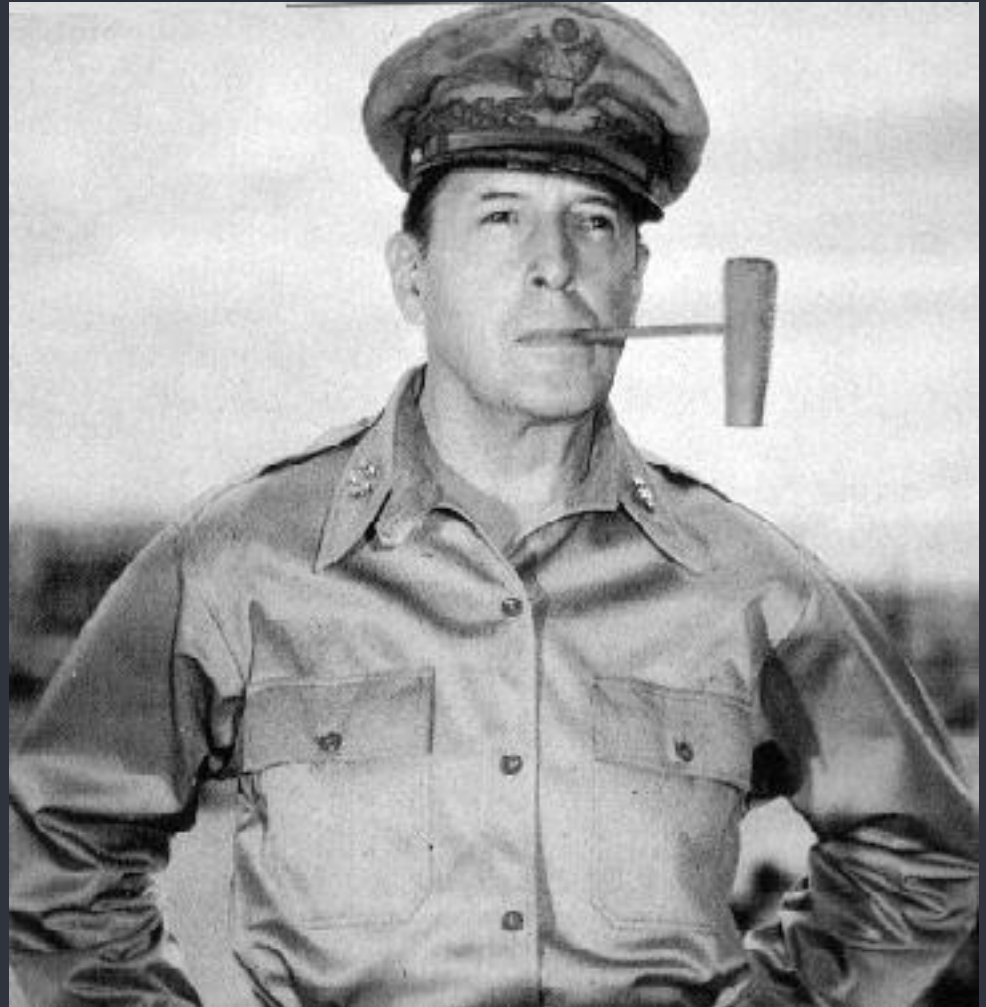
HARRY S TRUMAN'S RESPONSE IN KOREA

President Harry S Truman viewed the aggression in North Korea as a test case for the American policy of containment. He was immediately committed to protecting the sovereignty of South Korea. And he hoped that the United Nations would step in to support America's endeavors to restore peace in Korea.



GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR: BACK TO WORK

World War II hero General Douglas MacArthur was selected to lead United Nations troops into battle in Korea. Most of the soldiers under his command were Americans, of course. He was faced, however, with an enormous challenge — North Korean forces had been both swift and devastating in their initial assault upon South Korea. Communist forces controlled the vast majority of the Korean peninsula by the time MacArthur had organized his troops for their counterattack.



THE KOREAN WAR, ACT ONE: NORTH KOREA SURGES

The initial assault on South Korea, a surprise attack conducted in the early summer of 1950, resulted in a dramatic and frantic retreat by South Korean and American soldiers – all the way to the port city of Pusan in the Southeastern corner of the Korean peninsula. There was only a skeleton crew of American soldiers occupying Korea at the time, and they were unable to offer any more than minimal resistance to the communist aggressors.

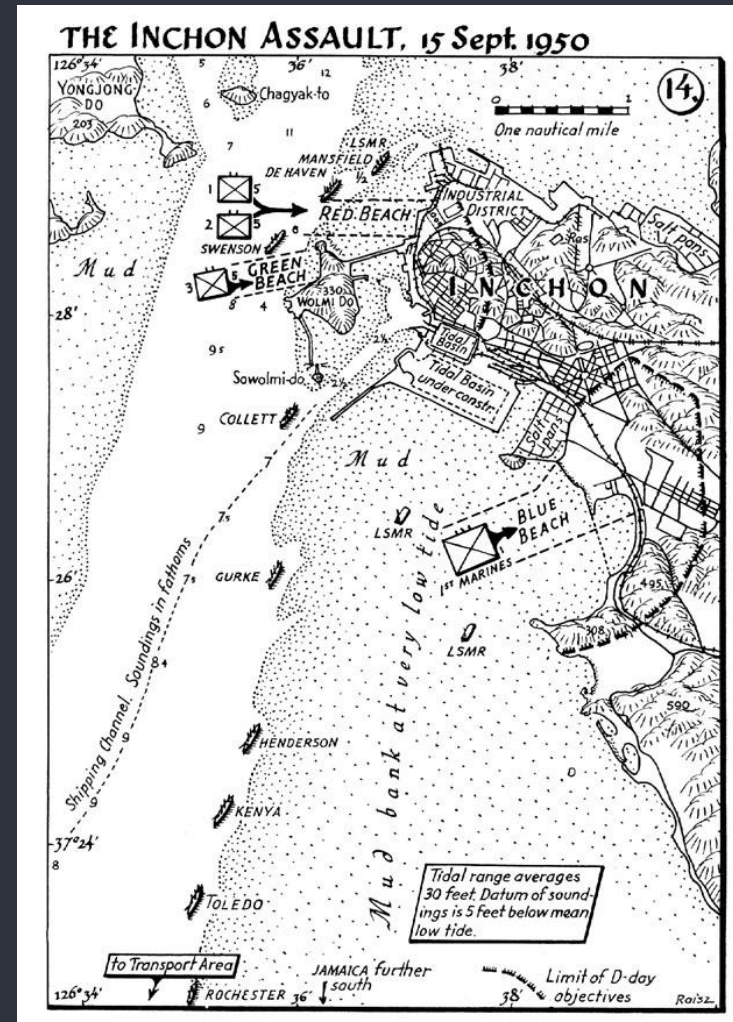


THE INCHON LANDING



THE INCHON LANDING AND AMERICAN COUNTERATTACK

Douglas MacArthur realized that the soldiers under his command were battle tested veterans of World War II, and that they were capable of the most dramatic and difficult landings – even against seemingly insurmountable odds. His genius plan was to attack the North Koreans where they least expected it – by circling around the peninsula and landing at the muddy tidal plateau of Inchon on the west coast of the Korean peninsula. The plan worked. North Korea's Army retreated, and the UN forces secured South Korea's original borders at the 38th Parallel.



A NEW GOAL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

After consultations between Douglas MacArthur, President Harry S Truman, and the leadership of the United Nations, it was determined that the UN Forces should continue to actively pursue communist forces in North Korea. The original mission of the UN forces had been simply to preserve the sovereignty of South Korea – to maintain its independence. Now, the new goal was to reunify Korea under democratic leadership. MacArthur now led his soldiers across the 38th Parallel into North Korean territory – with great success.



ENTER THE CHINESE: ACROSS THE YALU RIVER

At this point, North Korea's principal supporting ally, China, became very agitated. The Red Army began to mobilize, and Americans were warned that if they approached Chinese territory – specifically the border between North Korea and China fixed by the Yalu River – that China would attack. The picture to the right shows Chinese soldiers crossing the Yalu River to confront and attack American soldiers during the Korean War.



THE CHINESE COUNTERATTACK SUCCEEDS

The Chinese counterattack caught the UN and American soldiers entirely off guard and out of place. Forced to retreat in frigid and treacherous weather through mountainous terrain, American soldiers suffered mightily. UN, American, and South Korean forces were required to retreat below the 38th Parallel again.



CONFLICT: TRUMAN AND MACARTHUR AT ODDS



THE CONFLICT: CIVILIAN CONTROL OF THE MILITARY

Douglas MacArthur, who was a hardened and experienced military leader committed to victory, believed that the UN should respond to Chinese intervention by broadening the war – liberating North Korea, and invading Communist China, too. He even suggested using nuclear missiles to defeat Red China. To MacArthur, the communist threat was ever present, and the gains of the Communist Party were reversible. MacArthur publicly criticized the President.

Harry S. Truman was committed to the policy of containment – recall, that the policy suggested only that the United States would stop the spread of communism... not roll back communism where it existed. He did not approve of expanding the war to China, and objected strongly to the use of nuclear missiles there, which he believed would provoke a third World War, this time with the Soviet Union opposing Americans. And, he was the President – Commander in Chief.

TRUMAN FIRES GEN. DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

As the commander-in-chief of the United States military, the President of the United States leads the Armed Forces. His decisions are not subject to debate and any unwillingness on the part of military leaders to follow orders cannot be tolerated. When Douglas MacArthur publicly criticized and objected to the President's strategy and decisions, he was relieved of command.



Harry S. Truman fired General Douglas MacArthur – a five star general. He had no other choice in the matter.

THE ELECTION OF 1952: EISENHOWER IN COMMAND

Harry Truman could not run for President again in 1952, due to the passage of another amendment to the Constitution – which set term limits upon the Presidency. Passed by Congress in 1947 and ratified by the states in 1951, the 22nd Amendment states that a President cannot serve more than 10 years in office – and that they are not eligible for re-election if they have served for more than 6 years. It would be possible for a President to inherit the office after the midpoint of a previous President's term in office and serve two full terms. In 1952, Truman could not run again, and World War II hero Dwight David Eisenhower defeated the Democratic candidate – Adlai Stevenson.



Note the resemblance of this campaign button to the Interstate Highway markers for I-64 or I-95 you see today. Ike created the Federal Highway system of the United States today.

THE KOREAN WAR ENDS IN STALEMATE

In 1953, an armistice was signed ending the fighting in the Korean War. At the 38th Parallel, a demilitarized zone was established, creating a divided Korea: North and South. Even to this day, technically, a state of war exists between the North Koreans and South Koreans. President Dwight David Eisenhower decided to allow this resolution to stay in place, and a tense, stressful peace has persisted ever since. Today, North Korea is ruled by the unbalanced dictator Kim Jung Un, grandson of Kim Il Sung.





THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

13 days in October, 1962

JOHN F. KENNEDY VS. NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV



THE OVERTHROW OF FULGENCIO BATISTA, 1959

The dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista was riddled with corruption and did not serve the interests of the Cuban people.

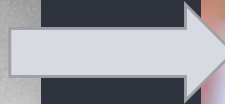
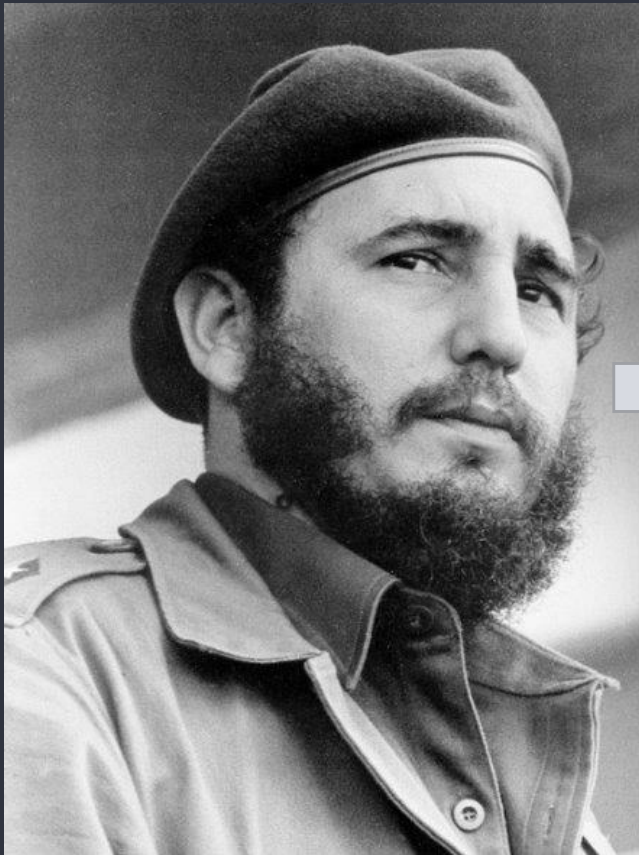
Many major Cuban industries, like sugar refineries, tobacco, oil, tourism, and gaming, were controlled by American interests and the Batista regime. Meanwhile, most Cubans struggled along in poverty.

In 1959, Fidel Castro, his brother Raul, and the Argentinean revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara, led the successful military revolt which removed Batista from power in 1959.



MURDEROUS DICTATOR: FIDEL CASTRO

The Revolutionary, 1959



Castro, Over Fifty Years Later



MURDEROUS DICTATOR: RAUL CASTRO

The Revolutionary, 1959



Raul Castro, the Current Leader



ERNESTO “CHE” GUEVARA

“Che” Revolutionary, 1959



Killed in Bolivia, 1967



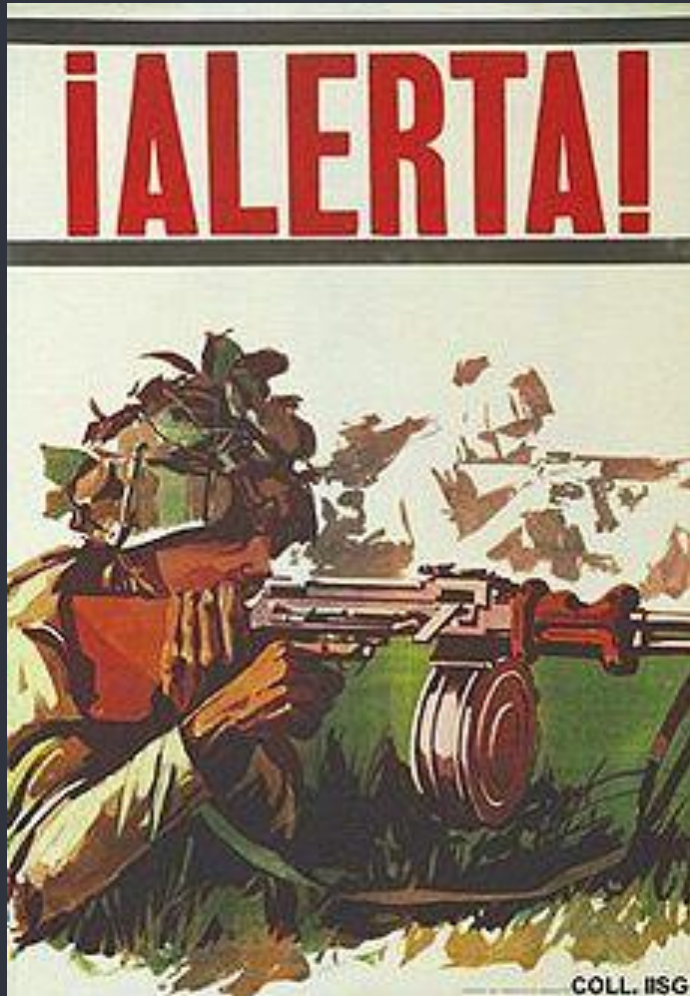
AP / 1967

KENNEDY'S FAILURE: THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION, 1961

Under Dwight David Eisenhower, the CIA had begun training Cuban exiles and military forces for an invasion of Cuba, meant to reverse the Cuban Revolution, defeat Castro, and restore a government in Cuba which would be sympathetic to US interests. Carried out during the Presidency of John F. Kennedy, the invasion failed, miserably – Kennedy's military background was less impressive than Ike's.



THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION, 1961



Kennedy committed several missteps during the Bay of Pigs invasion. In all likelihood, the invasion was not ready to proceed when it did. JFK had promised to provide the American-trained soldiers who stormed the southern shores of Cuba with air support — planes to bombard the enemy. But at the last moment, Kennedy lost his resolve, and the Bay of Pigs invasion was crushed. He feared Americans would be considered warmongers if we were discovered to be behind the plot. Of course, we were anyway.

FIDEL CASTRO REMAINS IN POWER

After Castro narrowly escaped several assassination attempts and was able to defeat American trained forces attempting to overthrow his government, Castro adopted a bolder philosophy of self-defense. He reached out to the Soviet Union for protection from the ever-present threat of United States aggression. This was not mere paranoia – Americans were actively trying to kill him with a variety of James Bond style assassination plots. When he reached out to Khrushchev, though, he found a willing ally and partner.



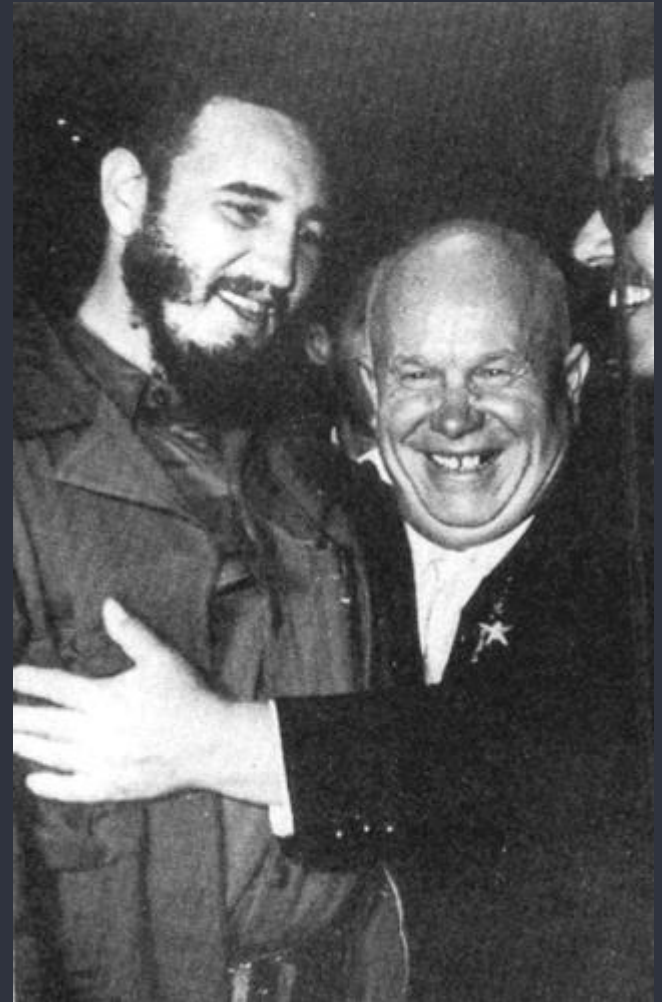
JUNE, 1962: THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BERLIN WALL

In June of 1962, Nikita Khrushchev retaliated against the United States by constructing the Berlin Wall. Millions of Eastern Europeans had flooded into West Berlin in an effort to emigrate to the capitalist democracies of the West. This exit route was blocked off indefinitely by the construction of the Berlin Wall, a symbol of Soviet oppression. Khrushchev figured turnabout was fair play. If Americans put pressure on his Cuban allies, then he would put pressure on our allies in West Berlin.



CASTRO ASKS KHRUSHCHEV FOR PROTECTION

Seeing the desire of Nikita Khrushchev to win a public victory over the United States, Fidel Castro reached out to the leaders of the Soviet Union's Politburo. He asked for and received access to nuclear missiles from the Soviet Union — he claimed, in order to defend himself against the threat of American invasions or assassination attempts.





THE UNITED STATES DISCOVERS MISSILE SILOS IN CUBA, OCTOBER, 1962

Using U-2 spy planes, the United States was able to take aerial photographs of large areas in Cuba and around the world. In October of 1962, some of the surveillance photos brought back to Washington, D. C. suggested that Cuba was assembling missile launch pads which could threaten the United States. The Kennedy Administration was faced with a crisis – the threat of nuclear war and ruin.

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY IS TESTED

As the youngest president ever elected to the office, many Americans questioned his leadership skills. In a meeting with Nikita Khrushchev in Geneva in 1961, Kennedy had seemed nervous, intimidated, and weak.

After the embarrassment of the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the construction of the Berlin Wall, Kennedy appeared to be losing his grip.

Sadly, Kennedy was assassinated in November of 1963 during a visit to Dallas, TX.

KENNEDY'S OPTIONS AND HIS ADVISORS

Kennedy's first option was to bomb the missile sites in Cuba, and to invade the island. Many of his military advisors thought that this was the best plan available, and suggested that the Soviet Union would do nothing in response. They argued that the attack could be carried out quickly and decisively, and that the Soviet Union (USSR) would be helpless to respond. Kennedy, however, did not concur. He feared that any American action in Cuba would be met by Soviet attacks.



KENNEDY'S SECOND OPTION: DO NOTHING

A second option, of course, would have been to do nothing at all. Allowing the Cubans to keep nuclear missiles within 100 miles of major United States cities would have changed the calculus of Cold War activities, but we had our own missiles near the USSR, and could have lived with the tension. By now, most people considered Mutually Assured Destruction to be a pretty effective deterrent to the use of atomic weapons. Kennedy never really considered this option, though. He claimed, "The greatest danger of all would be to do nothing."



KENNEDY'S THIRD OPTION: "QUARANTINE" OF CUBA

It is an act of war to blockade another nation and to prevent trade from taking place. So Kennedy didn't call it a blockade – he called it a “quarantine.” What's the difference? Still trying to figure that out... Kennedy surrounded Cuba with American ships, and dared the Soviet Union to try to run the blockade. The world waited anxiously to see what the Soviet Union's Navy would do.



ADLAI STEVENSON CONFRONTS THE USSR IN THE UN

Former Presidential Candidate Adlai Stevenson, in the UN, asked the Soviet Rep. Zorin whether or not the USSR had placed missiles in Cuba. When Zorin refused to answer, Stevenson famously replied: “All right, sir, let me ask you one simple question: Do you, Ambassador Zorin, deny that the USSR has placed and is placing medium- and intermediate-range missiles and sites in Cuba? Yes or no—don’t wait for the translation—yes or no?” Still no answer from Zorin. Stevenson continued: “You can answer yes or no. You have denied they exist. I want to know if I understood you correctly. I am prepared to wait for my answer until hell freezes over, if that’s your decision.”





AN AMERICAN SPY PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN OVER CUBA DURING THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS.

While Americans waited for a response, an American spy plane was shot down over Cuba. Once again, military leaders pressed Kennedy for an immediate and strong response — invasion, retaliatory bombing, or direct conflict with Soviet forces. But Kennedy refused to act in haste. The tension between the Soviet Union and the United States mounted. Kennedy went to the airwaves to speak to the American people on television.



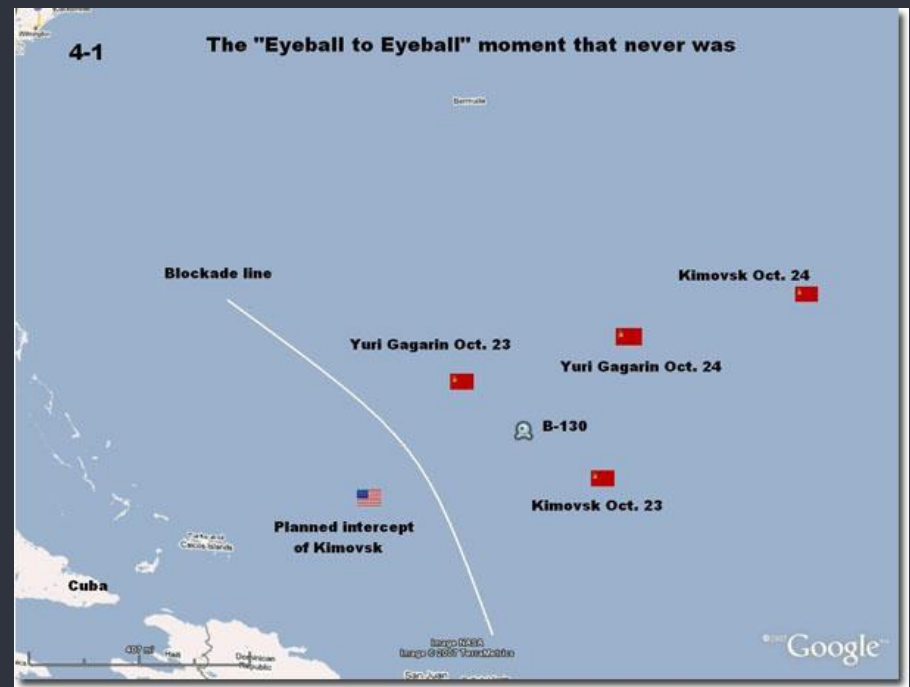
JFK DELIVERS HIS MOST FAMOUS TELEVISION ADDRESS ON
THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS.

[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=W50RNABMY3M&FE
ATURE=RELATED](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W50RNABMY3M&FEATURE=RELATED)

John F. Kennedy announced the blockade of Cuba to the United States and the world in a public television address in October of 1962. The Soviet Union, not wanting to heighten the tensions even more or to bring on conflict, chose to turn their ships around on the open seas. Eventually, Khrushchev and Kennedy would work out an agreement to resolve the crisis without any further anxiety.

THE SOVIETS BLINK: NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST IS AVOIDED

John F. Kennedy's Secretary of State Dean Rusk claimed, "We were eyeball to eyeball and *the other guy just blinked.*" Two Soviet Naval Vessels – the Kimovsk and the Yuri Gagarin (named after the world's first cosmonaut) changed course just before reaching the United States' "quarantine line." The ships decision to turn around was the first indication that JFK's back-channel negotiations were working. Although he appeared to be confrontational outwardly, a series of diplomatic letters were being exchanged between the US and the USSR.



RESOLUTION TO THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

- The Soviet Union agreed to disassemble and remove all of its nuclear missiles and launch pads from Cuba.
- The United States of America publicly pledged never to invade Cuba again. We have not done so since the Bay of Pigs Invasion.
- Secretly, the United States made a promise to remove our own intermediate range missiles, which were easily within reach of the Soviet Union's major cities from Turkey.
- Kennedy, who appeared both confident and strong during the crisis, gained much popularity and a stronger reputation.
- Khrushchev, who appeared to have backed down, lost power within the Soviet Union. By 1964, he had been replaced by Leonid Brezhnev.